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Acting Assistant Director for Operations

7 July 1952

Chief, FEID

Monitoring of Baltic States and Associated Areas

1. Attached is a staff study on the subject of this memorandum which is based on the thought that CIA may have to subsidize the BSG if we are to provide coverage of the Baltic area.

2. A matter of principle is involved in that a precedent would clearly be established by subsidizing the BSG for any coverage.

3. The attached staff study is designed to determine whether the several IAC agencies are sufficiently interested in the proposed coverage to advocate the expenditure of a substantial sum of money. It is therefore suggested that this staff study be reproduced and disseminated to G-2, Department of the Army; the Office of Naval Intelligence; the Director of Intelligence, USAF; OIR, Department of State; and the following offices of CIA:

Office of Current Intelligence
Office of Policy Coordination
Office of Special Operations
Office of Research and Reports
Office of Intelligence Coordination (for information)

Attachments

- 1 - Staff study
- 2 - BSG Stockholm Survey

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c. It is indisputable that the BBC MS can provide Baltic area coverage cheaper than FBIS can. This is due principally to the difference in British and American wages. It is reasonable to expect a better coordinated operation from BBC MS since it is presently covering Moscow, Eastern Europe and Western Europe extensively. Finally, it is believed that FBIS as an overt component of CIA would encounter more difficulty in securing the permission of Sweden to operate in Stockholm than would the BBC, a semi-private corporation.

d. Extracts from the BBC MS "Report on the Stockholm Survey of Transmissions from the Baltic States and Associated Areas, 10-30 March 1952" are attached as Tab B. These extracts give the scope and expected results of the project. Only the technical sections of the report have been deleted for the sake of brevity. It should be noted that the BBC plans enroute monitoring and recording in Stockholm, airmailing records to England where they would be transcribed, and only then could the material get into normal dissemination channels. These additional steps would probably result in a time gap between broadcast and receipt by intelligence offices of from seventy-two to ninety-six hours. It may, however, be possible to modify the BBC plan to provide for Stockholm transcription and transmission by signals of perishable material.

5. Conclusions:

a. The BBC MS can best perform monitoring of the Baltic states and associated areas.

b. FBIS may have to defray part or all of the expense if this monitoring is to be undertaken.

c. The interest of the intelligence agencies in this coverage must be determined in order to evaluate the requirement against the possible cost.

6. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the several IAC Agencies be requested to comment on this staff study and express the degree of their interest or lack of interest in the proposed coverage.

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Tab A - Letter to [] 17 June 52, from R. D. Marriott
Tab B - Extracts from "Stockholm Survey of Transmissions from the Baltic States and Associated Areas"

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2nd page rewritten 2 Aug 52 - AMW/pgc

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THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Head Office: Broadcasting House, London, W. 1

CAVERHAM PARK, READING, BERKS.

Telephone: Reading 72742

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**Reference:
07.MS.RDM**

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**F.B.I.S.,
2430 E Street, NW,
Washington 25, D.C.**

17th June 1952

Dear

I am sending you herewith two copies of our report on the investigation in Stockholm into the coverage of the Baltic States and associated areas, and I am also sending a copy to Wg/ here.

The report is being sent at the same time to our authorities here and I will keep you informed of any decision which is taken in the matter. You have already, I believe, had transcripts of the actual bulletins which we sampled and have expressed interest in the material which was obtained from them, and I should be very glad to know now what your reaction to the whole project is.

I cannot be too hopeful that there will be a positive decision about it here because to do so on any scale that would be worth while would undoubtedly cost a fair amount of money, and I cannot see that there is anything in our present coverage which we could give up to balance that which would not make a bigger hole than the one which we are trying to plug. However, your views on the matter would certainly be useful.

Yours sincerely,

/s/

R. D. Marriott

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